August

.hursday evening, dinner with Henri de Regnier at Rouart's house. I brought some photographs. The three of us spent the evening in the rue de Lisbonne studio. Henri de Regnier told about Casanova's *Memoirs* and Richter's *Titan.*

Friday, lunch with Henri de Regnier at the Soufflet In the morning, visit to Aunt Claire; bought some books under the Odeon arcade. Henri de Regnier accompanies me to rue de Commailles; I read him the beginning of *Peludes.*[1] Talk about Biskra.

Saturday, left in the morning for Lausanne.

Neuchdtcl, end of September

The most beautiful things are those that madness prompts and reason writes. Essential to remain between the two, close to madness when you dream and close to reason when you write.

It seems to me that *Paludes* was the work of an invalid, judging from the difficulty I have in getting back to it now. This is a proof, in the reverse, that I have now recovered; lyric enthusiasm does not leave me an instant and the hardest thing to write is this work, so voluntarily narrow. In short, I no longer suffer from the state of mind that forced me to write it; it has become a sort of disinterment

Neuchdtel

Even here autumn has its charm. This evening I went up to the woods above the town; I followed a main road bordered on one side by russet lindens and walnut trees. Men were knocking down the walnuts with long poles, and an odor of sodium iodide came from the husks that children were trampling on the ground. A strong warm wind was blowing. Near the woods some men were plowing. As they passed, people hailed one another aloud and it seemed as if you could hear the children's songs from a greater distance than usual I

thought of Cuverville and La Roque[2] and of my regret at not being there. I thought that at that same hour my family were looking likewise at the beautiful edges of the woods and were slowly returning home. The lamp is already on their table, the tea, the books of others. . . .

[1] *Morasses,* Gide's first *satie,* or satirical work, published in 1895.

[2] Two properties in Normandy belonging to Gide's family on the maternal side.